



Idaho Wine Industry Fact Sheet

Who: Overview

Idaho is a small but growing wine region with the natural resources to sustain world-class vineyards and wineries. Our *warm climate, well-drained soils* and direct access to our *water* sources provides Idaho the key ingredients for *fruit-forward* wines with *good structure*.

Idaho Wine Industry Overview:

- ❖ Prior to 1920, Idaho had a budding wine industry near Lewiston, but it was halted by prohibition. The revival of Idaho wine industry started with Ste. Chapelle in 1971 and grew slowly through the 70's and 80's. With the recognition of the Snake River Valley (SNV) American Viticulture Area (AVA) growth of the Idaho Wine industry has been exponential.
- ❖ Idaho wineries aim to produce a delicious product that becomes incorporated into our consumers' healthy lifestyle.
- ❖ The majority of Idaho vineyards are located in the SRV AVA in southwestern Idaho. Vineyards can also be found in the Lewiston area as well as southeastern Idaho.
- ❖ As of December 2010 Idaho has 43 wineries, 1600 vineyard acres, and a very promising wine growing region.

Idaho Fast Facts

- ❖ 43 Wineries
- ❖ 1600 Acres
- ❖ 225,000 cases produced
- ❖ 3,300 tons harvested
- ❖ 600ft-3000ft elevation
- ❖ \$73 Million Dollar Economic Impact in 2008
- ❖ Provide 625 Full-time Jobs
- ❖ Snake River Valley AVA Approved April 2007
- ❖ Leading varieties:
 - White: Chardonnay, Riesling, Viognier
 - Red: Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, Malbec, Tempranillo

Growth of the Idaho Wine Industry

1976	1
1985	6
1997	10
2002	11
2005	25
2008	38
2010	43

AVA Info

Snake River Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA) was approved in April 2007, encompassing 8,000 square miles with 1600 vineyard acres currently planted. SRV AVA overlays the ancient Lake Idaho, the shoreline creating it's natural boundaries.

Vineyards within the AVA have in common:

- ❖ **Soil** – Lake bottom sediments and volcanic remnants. These well draining soils give growers control over the growth of the grapevine.
- ❖ **Climate** - intense summer growing season with 16 hours of sunlight. Daytime temps in the 90s and nighttime temps in the 50s. Daytime temps lend themselves to ripe, fruit-forward wines, cool night temps conserve tannins and acid, providing wines with great structure.
- ❖ **Water** – Directly below the originating water sheds of the Rocky Mountains. The proximity to water gives us potential to have sustainable vineyards for generations to come.

The SNR AVA has good company with the great growing regions of the world in terms of latitude, elevation and growing season. Climate conditions are very similar to AVAs in the Columbia Valley in Washington State. Elevations (1500-3000ft), and latitudes (43rd parallel), are comparable to those in the high mountain deserts of the famed Rioja region in Spain.

Looking to the Future:

- ❖ The Idaho wine industry is just starting its second generation of vineyards, fine-tuning the match between microclimates and grape varieties to optimize wine quality and diversity. Economics/Tourism
- ❖ Growing number of wineries and vineyards

History

- ❖ 1872 Grapes planted in the Clearwater Valley by 2 Frenchmen and a German
- ❖ Received National Exposure and many awards
- ❖ Industry was booming

Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission **Mission Statement:**

“The Idaho Wine Commission (IWC) is the unifying organization for the vintners and winegrape growers of the Gem State. The IWC is a marketing, promotions and educational organization dedicated to improving the business climate for its members”